



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

**DFPS Rider 24 Report for Utilization
of Appropriate Levels of Care in
Foster Care**

October 2021

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As required in Rider 24, Article II of The General Appropriations Act, 86th Texas Legislature, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shall submit quarterly reports within 60 days of the end of the fiscal quarter updated information regarding implementation of plans to ensure foster children are placed in the most appropriate service level.

Year to Date Fiscal Year 2021

Intense Plus

Intense Plus Services are designed to address chronically serious to severe emotional and/or behavioral management problems that interfere with the child's ability to function in a family, school, or community setting outside of a therapeutic environment. At this time, Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) are the only types of facilities that may provide Intense Plus services.

As of October 20, 2021, three RTCs are contracted to provide Intense Plus services, two being out-of-state providers. There are currently three providers actively seeking an Intense Plus contract all are in-state providers.

Treatment Family Foster Care Services

Treatment Foster Family Care is a time-limited service through which providers are held accountable for reducing the acuity of need and facilitating placements into a less restrictive, more family-like setting. DFPS awarded three contracts for Treatment Foster Family Care Services to be provided across the state. The three contracts were effective September 1, 2018. Each contractor has a capacity growth plan with targeted milestones for both the number of treatment foster family homes certified to offer this service and the number of children served under each contract. The contractors continue to report that training and preparing the foster families takes longer than anticipated and that the model works best with one rather than two children in the home receiving this service. As such, the program continues to grow but at a slower pace than originally anticipated. Previously, the TFFC program was limited to children ages 10 and under. As capacity grew, DFPS and the TFFC contractors worked together to expand the ages of children accepted in the program. As of February 1, 2021, the age has been expanded to all children in DFPS conservatorship ages 17 and under. CPAs have begun training new and current families to work with older youth, but it is taking longer than expected for older youth to be accepted into these homes. During the 87th Legislature, SB 1896 passed two new additions to the program: lessen the employment restrictions to allow single parents to participate in the program, when quality care is assured and extending the length of time of placement. DFPS increased the length of TFFC placements from 6 months to 9 months. As of August 30, 2021, 283 unique children have been placed in a Treatment Foster Family Care placement.ⁱ

Financial Impact Due to Expanded Service Array

At this time, there is no significant financial impact resulting from the addition of Intense Plus and Treatment Foster Family Care. Currently, there are two RTCs contracted to provide Intense Plus Services. To date, thirteen children have received Intense Plus services.

As of August 30, 2021, there are 106 active Treatment Foster Family Care foster homes among the three contracted Child Placing Agencies. Of those 106 TFFC homes, 28 are in SSCC catchment areas. There are 90 DFPS childrenⁱⁱ placed in those homes. All three providers regularly review children for placement.

As the capacity in the Treatment Family Foster Care program grows and additional providers add Intense Plus Services to the array, DFPS should realize more of an impact based on the additional service.

Utilization of Service Levels

This Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care Report is for FY 21 YTD (September 1, 2020- August 30, 2021) data. These data exclude child specific contracts and children placed in a Single Source Continuum Contract (SSCC) through Community Based Care. Data will fluctuate due to payments processing through the systems.

Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care FY21 YTD (September 1, 2020 – August 30, 2021)

Table 1 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care during each month excluding children in child specific contracts and the Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC). There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. It should be noted the transition of Region 8A returned to the legacy system which effected the July and August 2021.

Table 1: Children in Paid Foster Care Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	12,000	\$26,078,379
Oct-20	12,100	\$26,925,592
Nov-20	11,954	\$25,831,420
Dec-20	11,803	\$26,381,133
Jan-21	11,633	\$26,170,667
Feb-21	11,491	\$23,461,570
Mar-21	11,699	\$25,862,460
Apr-21	11,577	\$24,753,274
May-21	11,423	\$25,243,541
Jun-21	11,255	\$23,436,382
Jul-21	12,454	\$26,984,432
Aug-21	12,115	\$25,792,593

Table 2 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care during each quarter, excluding children in child specific contracts and the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children over the quarter will not match the cumulative count of children in each month in the quarter as the same child can be counted in multiple months but will only be counted once in the quarter.

Table 2: Paid Foster Care by Quarter Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	13,854	\$78,835,391
2	13,226	\$76,013,370
3	13,265	\$75,859,275
4	14,246	\$76,213,407

Table 3 represents the number of children in and spending for child specific contracts. Child specific contracts are only applicable for children not in the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date.

Table 3: Children in Paid Child Specific Contracts

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	222	\$2,424,089
Oct-20	248	\$3,016,058
Nov-20	272	\$3,092,278
Dec-20	272	\$2,967,216
Jan-21	293	\$3,244,784
Feb-21	309	\$3,017,932
Mar-21	307	\$3,429,346
Apr-21	329	\$3,437,465
May-21	318	\$3,507,929
Jun-21	337	\$3,830,785
Jul-21	328	\$4,292,797
Aug-21	332	\$4,354,413

Table 4 represents the number of children with and spending for special waivers of a child's service level. Special Waivers are issued when there is a gap in the authorized service level period of time or a need to provide services at a level greater than what is authorized by the third-party review. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date.

Table 4: Children in Paid Foster Care on Special Waivers

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	170	\$989,074
Oct-20	175	\$1,035,341
Nov-20	168	\$1,122,320
Dec-20	178	\$1,177,317
Jan-21	167	\$1,089,091
Feb-21	182	\$1,075,129
Mar-21	200	\$1,287,465
Apr-21	197	\$1,275,145

Month	Children	Amount
May-21	191	\$1,191,145
Jun-21	177	\$1,101,236
Jul-21	208	\$1,402,136
Aug-21	202	\$1,213,599

Table 5 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care by service level during each month, excluding children in child specific contracts and the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children by service level will not match the total number of children in paid foster care as a child can have more than one service level during a month and so can be counted in multiple service levels.

Table 5: Total Children in Paid Care by Service Level Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Month	Quarter	Basic	Basic Amount	Moderate	Moderate Amount	Intense	Intense Amount	Intense Plus	Intense Plus Amount
Sep-20	1	7,636	\$9,523,722	1,793	\$4,400,725	346	\$2,275,488	8	\$79,743
Oct-20	1	7,706	\$9,912,821	1,806	\$4,648,584	334	\$2,293,113	6	\$74,534
Nov-20	1	7,631	\$9,466,105	1,763	\$4,395,356	340	\$2,324,357	2	\$24,043
Dec-20	2	7,554	\$9,779,712	1,750	\$4,427,940	332	\$2,398,757	3	\$24,043
Jan-21	2	7,481	\$9,736,502	1,681	\$4,296,510	323	\$2,313,759	2	\$19,635
Feb-21	2	7,396	\$8,848,042	1,634	\$3,814,489	307	\$1,915,165	2	\$14,827
Mar-21	3	7,592	\$9,773,737	1,654	\$4,226,700	304	\$2,080,048	1	\$2,805
Apr-21	3	7,536	\$9,456,274	1,650	\$4,093,832	293	\$1,958,622	0	\$0
May-21	3	7,420	\$9,671,757	1,645	\$4,211,108	300	\$2,068,946	1	\$2,404
Jun-21	4	7,404	\$9,223,093	1,566	\$3,853,093	277	\$1,915,327	1	\$3,606
Jul-21	4	8,363	\$11,031,212	1,587	\$4,116,289	298	\$2,093,734	0	\$0
Aug-21	4	8,132	\$10,687,360	1,579	\$4,032,412	282	\$1,956,530	0	\$0

Month	Quarter	Specialized	Specialized Amount	Emergency	Emergency Amount	Psychiatric Transition	Psychiatric Transition Amount	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster Care Amount	SIL	SIL Amount
Sep-20	1	1,741	\$7,197,121	554	\$1,710,831	27	\$217,800	67	\$488,553	95	\$119,120
Oct-20	1	1,708	\$7,228,854	623	\$1,812,052	25	\$221,943	72	\$520,818	96	\$123,993
Nov-20	1	1,679	\$6,917,997	574	\$1,768,305	25	\$185,259	73	\$556,550	95	\$114,585
Dec-20	2	1,663	\$7,086,220	549	\$1,747,112	28	\$231,661	72	\$552,617	80	\$100,212
Jan-21	2	1,648	\$7,120,188	521	\$1,746,958	30	\$223,798	70	\$548,728	74	\$95,773
Feb-21	2	1,629	\$6,434,966	520	\$1,622,738	32	\$195,489	75	\$526,871	75	\$84,978
Mar-21	3	1,620	\$7,079,872	572	\$1,785,121	33	\$274,524	77	\$540,204	77	\$99,449
Apr-21	3	1,537	\$6,586,661	571	\$1,765,572	27	\$225,589	74	\$562,048	78	\$104,676
May-21	3	1,446	\$6,628,336	543	\$1,818,517	21	\$115,506	77	\$619,833	84	\$107,134
Jun-21	4	1,473	\$5,975,928	529	\$1,604,614	12	\$100,234	78	\$599,199	121	\$161,285
Jul-21	4	1,590	\$6,874,128	557	\$1,847,113	13	\$122,406	91	\$706,734	141	\$192,816

Month	Quarter	Specialized	Specialized Amount	Emergency	Emergency Amount	Psychiatric Transition	Psychiatric Transition Amount	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster Care Amount	SIL	SIL Amount
Aug-21	4	1,500	\$6,371,920	593	\$1,809,809	9	\$78,235	88	\$654,676	148	\$201,650

Month	Quarter	COVID-19 Placement	COVID-19 Placement Amount
Sep-20	1	12	\$65,274
Oct-20	1	13	\$88,880
Nov-20	1	19	\$78,862
Dec-20	2	8	\$32,859
Jan-21	2	9	\$68,816
Feb-21	2	2	\$4,007
Mar-21	3	0	\$0
Apr-21	3	0	\$0
May-21	3	0	\$0
Jun-21	4	0	\$0
Jul-21	4	0	\$0
Aug-21	4	0	\$0

Table 6 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care during each month excluding children in child specific contracts. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. The number of children in and payments for SSCC foster care has increased with the addition of an SSCC in catchment areas 1, 2, and 8a.

Table 6: Children in SSCC Foster Care Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	5,470	\$13,926,521
Oct-20	5,517	\$14,655,144
Nov-20	5,517	\$14,195,557
Dec-20	5,493	\$14,627,462
Jan-21	5,466	\$14,560,712
Feb-21	5,485	\$13,425,149
Mar-21	5,634	\$14,683,275
Apr-21	5,466	\$14,109,116
May-21	5,375	\$14,725,196
Jun-21	5,196	\$13,629,438
Jul-21	3,305	\$9,442,074
Aug-21	3,284	\$9,493,271

Table 7 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care during each quarter, excluding children in child specific contracts. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children over the quarter will not match the cumulative count of children in each month in the quarter as the same child can be counted in multiple months but will only be counted once in the quarter.

Table 7: SSCC Foster Care by Quarter Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	6,262	\$42,777,222
2	6,291	\$42,613,323
3	6,309	\$43,517,588
4	5,630	\$32,564,783

Table 8 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care by the different payment rates during each month, excluding children in child specific contracts. The SSCC is not paid by a child's service level. Instead, they are paid a single rate for each child that is a "blend" of the service level that would have been paid in the legacy system. There is also a provision for the SSCC to be paid an exceptional rate for some children that is similar in concept

to a child specific contract. The rate for children in Supervised Independent Living (SIL) is also a separate rate. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children by different payment rates will not match the total number of children in SSCC care as a child can have more than one service level during a month and so can be counted in multiple service levels.

Table 8: Children in SSCC Foster Care by Service Level Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Month	Quarter	SSCC Blended Children	SSCC Blended Rate Amount	SSCC Exceptional Children	SSCC Exceptional Amount Paid	SSCC SIL Children	SSCC SIL Amount
Sep-20	1	5,287	\$12,404,429	132	\$1,408,174	99	\$113,919
Oct-20	1	5,324	\$12,988,820	131	\$1,546,488	97	\$119,835
Nov-20	1	5,327	\$12,514,704	144	\$1,567,972	98	\$112,882
Dec-20	2	5,301	\$12,833,240	147	\$1,667,725	106	\$126,498
Jan-21	2	5,270	\$12,765,794	150	\$1,667,590	107	\$127,329
Feb-21	2	5,273	\$11,720,183	161	\$1,584,645	107	\$120,321
Mar-21	3	5,425	\$12,893,835	160	\$1,654,255	112	\$135,185
Apr-21	3	5,263	\$12,397,742	163	\$1,580,776	111	\$130,598
May-21	3	5,156	\$12,680,826	174	\$1,918,306	110	\$126,064
Jun-21	4	5,051	\$11,780,619	182	\$1,772,957	64	\$75,863
Jul-21	4	3,152	\$7,585,903	164	\$1,798,710	48	\$57,461
Aug-21	4	3,117	\$7,302,601	200	\$2,127,931	49	\$62,739

ⁱ Based on a manual count by Child Protective Services staff.

ⁱⁱ Based on a manual count by Child Protective Services staff.

Data source for all data represented in Tables: DRIT 103210